

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF
THE CORPORATION OF LIBERTY, INDIANA
August 5, 2024**

The Town Council of the Town of Liberty, Indiana met in regular session on August 5, 2024 in the Union County Commissioner's Chambers.

Town Council Vice President Dereck Tipton called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Present were: Ross Keasling, Derrek Jenkins and Jerry Kahl.

Also in attendance was Melissa Shepler, Clerk-Treasurer; Matt Reuss, Todd Dickenson, Jim Barnhizer and Brandon Creech.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Jenkins made a motion to approve the minutes of Mr. Keasling supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

ORDINANCES

The members of the Council were polled and decided to consider adoption of Ordinance 2024-8 on first reading. Mr. Jenkins made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-8. Mr. Kahl supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

Mr. Keasling made a motion to amend the rules and consider adoption of Ordinance 2024-9 on first reading. Mr. Kahl supported the motion. Mr. Keasling made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-9 with the amending of removing 20" chainsaw from the fee schedule and replacing it with chainsaw. Mr. Jenkins supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

The members of the Council were polled and decided to consider adoption of Ordinance 2024-10 on first reading. Mr. Keasling made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-10. Mr. Kahl supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

The members of the Council were polled and decided to consider adoption of Ordinance 2024-11 on first reading. Mr. Jenkins made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-11. Mr. Kahl supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed

RESOLUTIONS

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Utilities Superintendent Matt Reuss informed the Council that the items he wants to go over are later in the agenda.

Fire Chief Jim Barnhizer informed the Council that the Chevy truck that was ordered will not be built this year. Chevy is not building any utility trucks for the rest of this year. He asked if the Fire Department could go ahead and order a different truck. Ms. Shepler stated that because they will have to go to a different manufacturer and the price will change, the Fire Department needs to contact three vendors for a price on a vehicle that has similar specifications. The Fire Department needs to move on it quickly if they want the vehicle bought and paid for in this year's budget. Ms. Shepler asked Chief Barnhizer where does the department stand on getting their Federal Identification Number? She will not give the department their end of year checks until they have the number. Chief Barnhizer stated that Jim Williams was working on obtaining the identification number for them.

Police Chief Todd Dickenson passed out the activity reports the Council had requested. He informed the Council that Officer Young will graduate from the Academy next week. Chief Dickenson gave Officer Brandon Creech the floor after he informed the Council that Officer Creech had turned in his two-week notice. Officer Creech thanked the Council for the opportunity especially through the drastic changes that had occurred. Officer Creech will still be living in the community. The Council thanked Officer Creech for his service and understood why he was leaving the

whether Mr. and Mrs. Eldridge are granted a handicap parking spot in front of their residence. With the information presented and conversations at previous meetings, Mr. Kahl made a motion to not permit a handicap parking spot in front of the Eldridge residence. Mr. Keasling supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed. Ms. Shepler also discussed the metal remnant of the Old Davis Park Pillar that is located in the Eldridge's yard and who is responsible for removing it. Ms. Shepler stated that in her discussion with Mr. Williams, since the school is the owner of Davis Park and the pillars, it should be their responsibility to remove the metal.


Conversation occurred over possibly establishing a DORA district in Town. Mr. Kahl went to the Town merchants to get an idea of what their interest would be in allowing a DORA district in Town. There were concerns amongst the merchants as well as the police department in policing the DORA as well as expenses. It was decided to not consider a DORA district at this time however, they would be open to discuss it again if circumstances change.

Ms. Shepler reviewed the 2025 Budget paperwork she included in the Council packets. As a part of the review, she discussed the quote received from Duke Energy to add light poles in the Wynds subdivision. Duke's contractor would install eight (8) light poles per the drawing that was included in the Council packets. To install eight (8) poles the Town would have to sign a ten-year contract with Duke. The costs would be \$ 175.00/month/pole for the next ten years. This would amount to \$ 16,800.00 extra per year. Ms. Shepler stated that she received this information early enough that she has included it in her budget for next year. After a brief discussion, the Council asked Mr. Reuss to get with Mr. Goss of Duke Energy to see if another light can be added near the intersection of S. Independence Lane and Harbor Court due to the dead end. Mr. Reuss will inform Mr. Goss of the Town's request and get an updated price. The Council informed Mr. Reuss that he could have Duke start the contract process once the pricing is received.

Mr. Reuss reviewed the 150-gallon double wall tank information that was in the Council packets with the Council. Mr. Reuss can get a 30" x 48" tank for the generator for a total cost of \$ 6,050.00. The current generator, due to the tank being ruptured several years ago, currently holds enough fuel to power the building for five (5) hours. Adding the new tank would allow thirty (30) hours of power to the building. If the Town wanted to switch to natural gas, a whole new generate would have to be installed. Ms. Shepler addressed the fact that part of the current generator and quite possibly this new tan will infringe on the County's property as the area owned behind the Town Hall is narrow. Mr. Paul Wiwi, former President of the County Council, had originally given the Town permission to install the generator with the idea that some of generator would sit on county property. Mr. Reuss attended a County Commissioners' meeting and addressed this situation with the Commissioners. The Commissioners approved allowing the Town to infringe on its property to install the tank. Mr. Reuss wanted to make sure that it appeared in the minutes of the County Commissioners' meeting in case of any future discrepancies. Mr. Kahl made a motion to approve the purchase of the tank. Mr. Jenkins supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed. Mr. Tipton asked Ms. Shepler where would the money for the tank be paid out of? Ms. Shepler asked the Council if they would be ok with her to bring a resolution to them at the next meeting using the money that was set aside for the Special Projects Coordinator, that does not exist at this time, and transferring it from the EDIT Professional Services appropriation to the EDIT Capital Asset appropriation? That way she would not have to do an additional appropriation for any other Fund. The Council agreed to do so.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on a motion made by Mr. Keasling and supported by Mr. Jenkins the meeting was adjourned.



Keith Bias, President

ATTEST: 

Melissa Shepler, Clerk-Treasurer